Overpayments to Contractors.

115. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there are any overpayment to contractors under the Public Works Department during the last three years;

(b) if so, who were the contractors to whom such payments were made and what is the name of the work in respect of which overpayments were made;

(c) what steps were taken to recover the same and how much was realised in each case;

(d) who is responsible for the overpayment in each case?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) There were several minor overpayments to contractors during the last three years from amounts ranging from some pies in certain cases to rupees ten. These have either been already recovered or are being adjusted against their respective accounts.

(b) Two instances of overpayment above Rs. 10 have been noticed in 1102.

(c) In one case an overpayment of Rs. 11—13—1 was made to contractor Mr. V. O. Chakko for certain "minor works in the Hill Palace". The amount will be shortly recovered from him. The other instance was in the case of the Peringottukara school work where contractor Mr. M. I. Vareed was paid Rs. 97 and odd in excess of what was due to him. The amount was recovered from him.

(d) In such cases it is not possible to fix responsibility on a particular individual as such overpayments were made on account of arithmetical errors in calculations which were handled by different officers.

Pay of teachers in Night schools.

116. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state the present scale of salaries of the teachers in Night schools and whether any difference of pay is kept in the case of teachers of the same grade on account of any peculiar circumstances?

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—The scale of pay of the Assistants of Night schools is Rs. 6—½—9, but there is no separate fixed scale for the Headmasters. In Sirkar Night schools teachers of any of the Malayalam Primary grades are appointed as Headmasters and if they are fuli time-workers in the Night schools, they are allowed to draw the pay they would, from time to time be entitled to, had they continued in the

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